

AASHTO Environmental Pilot Program

Introduction

On April 19, 1999 the AASHTO Board of Directors approved establishment of an AASHTO Pilot Program for environmental streamlining and related activities.

The proposal for a pilot program was initiated at a February 24, 1999 meeting of senior officials from AASHTO, the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency held in Washington, D.C. to discuss environmental streamlining and related TEA-21 implementation issues.

During the meeting, there was consensus that AASHTO, U.S. DOT and EPA should work together to develop pilot programs for environmental streamlining and related areas.

Pilot programs may be considered in a range of time frames, including the project level time frame, the corridor plan time frame, the 2-6 year time frame for TIP and STIP development, and the 20-year time frame for long-range planning. Pilots can cover a range of activities. Examples might include:

- Developing state of the art methodologies to streamline environmental reviews and approvals on specific transportation projects or types of projects,
- Merging transportation planning with watershed planning, or
- Identifying broad changes in process and coordination, such as integrating environmental concepts into regional long-range transportation plans.

The AASHTO Pilot Program will be very flexible and strongly emphasize topics and approaches developed by the States rather than topics and approaches developed in Washington, D.C. This is an opportunity for States to be creative in identifying pilot activities that would provide useful results from their perspective.

The AASHTO Pilot Program will be coordinated with the AASHTO-AMPO-USDOT-EPA Pilot Project Network to provide information and publicize the results of pilot efforts and to provide a coordination process for the several pilot projects likely to be initiated.

Purpose of the AASHTO Pilot Program initiative

The purpose of the AASHTO Pilot Program is to test ways to streamline the environmental process for transportation so that U.S. DOT, federal resource agencies and State transportation agencies can work together to meet the requirements of federal transportation and environmental laws in a more timely, less cumbersome, and less duplicative manner.

Eligibility

All AASHTO member departments, which include the highway and transportation departments in the fifty states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico, are eligible to submit candidate pilot activities. Any transportation project or improvement effort eligible for funding under Title 23 U.S.C. or Title 49 U.S.C. would be eligible.

All other organizations that will be participating in the pilot, such as federal resource agencies, would be listed as co-sponsors. Either U.S. DOT or EPA must be a co-sponsor for each pilot activity submitted.

Funding

The project sponsor and co-sponsor(s) would develop among themselves the appropriate funding approach for their pilot project. There are no additional funds available through U.S. DOT, EPA, or AASHTO for individual pilot activities. U.S. DOT, EPA and AASHTO will use resources to disseminate information about each pilot.

Application Process

Using the attached list of topics, develop an application form for your proposed pilot program. Complete the information requested and send your completed application to:

AASHTO
ATTN: Dave Clawson
Suite 249
444 N. Capitol St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Applications may also be submitted by fax (202-624-5806) or by e-mail (davidc@aashto.org).
All application forms are due to AASHTO by 4:30 p.m. on August 13, 1999.

Criteria for the Selection of Projects

Proposals for pilot projects submitted by AASHTO member departments would be selected so that there is balance among the four AASHTO regions. Projects would be selected based on creativity, potential for increasing state-of-the-art *methods* to streamline the transportation – environmental process, and potential applicability of these methods to a large number of States.

Selection Committee

Approximately 5-10 projects would be selected by a committee composed of the AASHTO Vice President, the Chairmen of the AASHTO Standing Committees on Planning, Environment, Public Transportation and Highways, and a representative from U.S. DOT and a representative from EPA.

Timeline

The timeline for completion of each pilot will vary based on the activity proposed.

DHC/revised 6/24/99

AASHTO PILOT PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

DEVELOP YOUR APPLICATION USING THE FOLLOWING HEADINGS:

PROGRAM TITLE:

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

LEAD AGENCY:

OTHER SPONSORS/PARTNERS:

PROGRAM CONTACT(S):

BUDGET:

FUNDING SOURCES:

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE TO BE ADDRESSED:

PROGRAM STRATEGY:

MAJOR ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

CRITICAL ANALYTICAL EVALUATION MEASURES:

UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

COMMUNITY/PUBLIC OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT:

PARTNERSHIP ISSUES (i.e. technology, managerial, economic, and strategic):

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES EMPLOYED:

POTENTIAL LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM PILOT PROGRAM:

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS:

OTHER COMMENTS: